

**Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee
Meeting Minutes
September 14, 2010**

The Bethany Beach Cultural and Historic Affairs Committee held a meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. in the Town Meeting Room, 214 Garfield Parkway, Bethany Beach, DE 19930.

Members present: Carol Olmstead, who presided; Margaret Young, Pat Rogers, Pamela Szypulski, Jane Fowler, Mary Lou McNerney, and Gloria Farrar.

Note: Ms. McNerney and Ms. Szypulski were excused to leave the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Excused members: Theo Loppatto and Mary Lou Urquhart

Also present: Lindsey Shallcross, Administrative Secretary.

Call to Order

Ms. Olmstead called the meeting to order at 1:08 p.m.

Approval of Minutes from the June 10, 2010 Meeting

After one revision, Ms. Rogers made a motion to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Ms. Fowler and unanimously approved.

Announcements

Ms. Olmstead reported the following:

- Ms. Olmstead expressed thanks and appreciation to the CHAC members who contributed time and effort towards the 100th Anniversary of the Loop Canal celebration. She said the event was successful. Many people attended, including past Council members. There was also positive feedback on the dock that was built at the Loop Canal.

Ms. Olmsted questioned whether the 100th Anniversary of the Loop Canal sign should be taken down.

Ms. Farrar noted that she received many requests to take the sign down due because of its size.

- In regards to the twinning of Periers, France and Bethany Beach events that took place, Ms. Olmstead explained that once CHAC made contact with Ms. Diana Cowell, it was more of an occasion for the Town to be involved with.

Every event that took place was a success. Mayor Gabriel Daube of Periers, France and his wife were very appreciative.

The following happenings took place:

- 1.) The Milford Community Band presented an exceptional program, including performing French music.
- 2.) Ms. Fowler's relative sang the National Anthem and it was a spectacular performance. Mayor Gabriel Daube sent an e-mail regarding expressing how excellent the singing performance was.
- 3.) There was an evening reception at the Town Hall hosted by the Town of Bethany Beach.
- 4.) The Council and Mayor Gabriel Daube and his wife went on a Trolley ride around Bethany Beach and South Bethany.

Ms. Farrar mentioned that Mayor Gabriel Daube and his wife expressed to her how much they enjoyed their visit to the Town of Bethany Beach.

Ms. Olmstead stated that a new sign is being made to be put in the garden, which has the Town's Seal and the Periers, France seal on it.

Report/Discussion Regarding Museum Summer Docents

Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that Ms. Szypulski made the initial contacts with the docents and Ms. Rogers created the docent schedule. The summer docent program was an overall success.

Ms. Olmstead questioned if it is advisable to have docents continue on Sundays during the summer. She added that many people visit the Museum during the week, but not as many do on the weekends.

Ms. Fowler expressed that the docents should continue working on the weekends as long as they want to.

The Committee agreed to keep the Museum open on the weekends during the summer.

Oral History Update: Goal for Completion Signed Release Forms

Ms. Olmstead stated that she will send a list of all the individuals who have been interviewed and e-mail it to Ms. Farrar so she can check to see that all permission forms have been completed. Ms. Olmstead will present the list at the next CHAC meeting.

The Committee reviewed the list people that have been interviewed and discussed other individuals that still need to be interviewed.

Ms. Olmstead mentioned that she recently spoke with Mr. Gerald Wilgus and he agreed to participate as an interviewee.

Ms. Olmstead reported that there are still approximately twelve (12) interviews to be completed. She is going to call Mr. Ray Disney to try to move forward with the project, and she will e-mail the members regarding Mr. Disney's schedule at this time.

Ms. Olmstead distributed the current roster to the Committee members.

Input to Bethany Beach Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Olmstead explained that the Town is in the process of updating the Comprehensive Plan, and CHAC is responsible for updating one section.

Ms. Olmstead distributed the section of the Comprehensive Plan that needs to be updated to the members.

Ms. Olmstead said that when the Comprehensive Plan was first completed, there were recommendations made regarding history and culture.

Ms. Olmstead remarked that the Museum Inventory completed last year would be included.

Ms. Olmstead explained that when CHAC first began, it was decided that plaques would be placed to recognize homes built before 1930. However, the Town would not engage in historic preservation of individual homes.

Ms. Young suggested considering using incentives to encourage home owners in the Town to maintain historical houses.

(Ms. McNerney excused herself at this time.)

The Committee established the following as historical resources:

- 1.) Homes with plaques
- 2.) Oral History Project
- 3.) Inventory of museum
- 4.) Heritage Trail
- 5.) Loop Canal

Ms. Olmstead is going to develop a document based on projects that the Committee has accomplished over the years.

Ms. Rogers noted that they can mention artifacts, kiosk programs, and the Town Map in regards to using the museum a historical resource.

Possible Projects for Upcoming Year

Notecards

Ms. Szyplowski reported that she created a notecard sample to use for thanking the summer docents.

Ms. Szyplowski is going to research prices for notecards of historic homes previously discussed. Ms. Olmstead will add this topic to the agenda for the next meeting.

(Ms. Szypulski excused herself at this time.)

Historical Pictures Plaques

Ms. Olmstead stated that she and Ms. Loppatto are working on creating explanations for the pictures hanging up in the Town Hall.

News Articles Albums

Ms. Rogers and Ms. Urquhart have accomplished a lot in the past year with the news article album. Ms. Olmstead noted that she has an album that they can put all of the articles in.

Bethany/Perier, France T-shirts

Ms. Olmstead explained that Diana Cowell had T-shirts made from the Perier, France/Bethany Beach twinning (sister cities) event. An individual suggested to Ms. Olmstead to consider selling the T-shirts in the Museum.

Ms. Farrar expressed that T-shirts would be difficult to sell since many people were not involved in the event.

The Committee discussed reasons whether or not to sell T-shirts, and decided to put the idea on hold.

Ms. Young questioned what the next step is regarding Periers, France.

Ms. Olmstead replied that she will add that as an item to next month's agenda so that the Committee can come up with ideas on furthering contact with Periers, France.

Other

- Ms. Young brought up the error on the historical plaque for Seaside Inn. Ms. Olmstead will contact Healy Brothers and report at the next meeting.
- Ms. Farrar reported that she received a message from Delaware Historical Society regarding whether CHAC would like to participate in the 150th Anniversary of the Civil War.
- Ms. Olmstead acknowledged that Michael Morgan's book *Bethany Beach* has been published and autographed copies can be purchased in the Bethany Beach Book Store. Photographs that belong to CHAC, which are displayed on the kiosk in the Museum were borrowed and included in the book. She will bring a copy to the next meeting.
- Ms. Young distributed a document, and explained that that CHAC has been assigned a project regarding a memorial for Henry Drexler, who was awarded a Congressional Medal of Honor.

Ms. Olmstead recommended an agenda item for next month to address this since it is not on this month's agenda.

Possible Cultural Events

Ms. Olmstead distributed a document of possible Cultural Events for this year. The Committee discussed the following ideas:

- Have a cultural evening, and consider contacting the secretary from the Delaware Historical Society in regards to having a literature based on the Civil War. Ms. Farrar will contact her and report back at the next CHAC meeting.
- Ms. Olmstead suggested to have Cultural Events on an occasional basis.
- Ms. Fowler stated that the Virginia Beach newspapers wrote a series of articles on the number of ships that sank off of the East Coast during World War II. She suggested that this might be an interesting topic for a future Cultural Event.

Set Date for Next Meeting

The next CHAC meeting is scheduled to be held on October 12, 2010 at 1:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Ms. Fowler made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Rogers seconded the motion and it was unanimously approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted:

Lindsey Shallcross, Admin. Secretary

